

ASSAY FOR YKL-40 AS A MARKER FOR DEGRADATION OF MAMMALIAN CONNECTIVE TISSUE MATRICES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention is a method of identifying the presence of, and
5 monitoring, a disease state in a mammal which is associated with degradation of
connective tissue in the mammal. The method detects and determines whether
diagnostically or prognostically significant levels of YKL-40 protein and/or YKL-40
peptide are present in a biological sample. The method can be used, for example,
to identify the presence of inflammatory joint disease or degeneration of connective
10 tissue in organs. Serum YKL-40 levels as detected and quantified by the invention
method are also suggestive of the prognosis for the length of survival in breast
cancer patients following recurrence and/or metastasis of their cancers.

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